

Private Thomas Sinclair Palmer
Regimental number: 202685
1/6th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment

born: 13 February 1898 - died: 13 July 1918

Private Thomas Sinclair Palmer was born on 13 February 1898 and baptised on 3 April at St Botolph, Aldgate in London, England.¹ He was the son of Charles and Margaret Ann Palmer, who were living at the time at 34 Prince's Block. Charles was a greengrocer. His father, Charles, was born about 1870 in Kensington, London,² the son of Thomas Palmer, also a greengrocer.³ His mother, the former Margaret Ann Perry Kavanagh was born on 1 April 1871 in Southwark, the daughter of Joseph Morris and Caroline Kavanagh.⁴ Charles and Margaret Ann were married on 27 April 1891 at Christ Church with St Mary and St Stephen, Spitalfields.⁵ They had four children – only two of whom survived childhood: Edmund Charles (born in 1892,⁶ but died in 1901),⁷ Florence Margaret (born in 1895),⁸ Thomas and a fourth child whose identity was not found.

Thomas was living in Bow, London, when he enlisted in Poplar in the South Staffordshire Regiment. He served originally in the 2/5th Battalion but transferred at some point to the 1/6th Battalion. Both the 5th and the 6th Battalions were battalions of the Territorial Force. Except for a short period in Egypt the two battalions were on the Western Front throughout most of the Great War.⁹

Thomas was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 6 July 1918 with lobar pneumonia. He survived for a week, dying on 13 July. He was buried the following day in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 5, Row E, Grave 25) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding. Thomas was a member of the Church of England.

His mother, who was then living at Arcade Chambers in Bognor, Sussex, was notified of his death. She also received the monies owing to him from the army after his death.¹⁰

The day Thomas was admitted to the 1st CCCS, there were 174 admissions – the highest number of admissions in one day so far that month.¹¹ He was one of 39 to die at that CCCS in July. Most of the over 1,000 First World War soldiers buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery died at one of the nearby clearing stations.¹² This cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹³

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¹ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Thomas Sivelan Palmer

² "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Charles Palmer, Registration district: Kensington, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1a, Page: 180

³ "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Charles Palmer, Parish: Christ Church with St Mary and St Stephen, Spitalfields, Borough: Tower Hamlets, Register Type: Parish Register

⁴ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Margaret Ann Perry Kavanagh

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- ⁵ "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921," entry for Charles Palmer
- ⁶ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Edmund Charles Palmer
- ⁷ "England & Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Edmund Charles Palmer, Registration district: Whitechapel, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 211
- ⁸ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Florence Margaret Palmer
- ⁹ "The South Staffordshire Regiment," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/sstaffs.htm>; accessed 10 June 2105)
- ¹⁰ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Thomas Sinclair Palmer
- ¹¹ "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINN&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)
- ¹² "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>; accessed 13 January 2015)
- ¹³ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 10 June 2015), entry for Thomas Sinclair Palmer